

Senate Resolution 1136

By: Senator Hudgens of the 47th

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing and commending Springhill Baptist Church on the occasion of its 140th
2 anniversary; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Springhill Baptist Church was founded in 1870, and this year the church
4 celebrates 140 years of continuous, faithful worship services; and

5 WHEREAS, established by Reverend Silas Johnson and a small group of faithful servants
6 of the Lord and named after a crystal clear spring bubbling at the foot of a wooded hill a few
7 feet from the church, Springhill Baptist Church is the oldest African American church in
8 Philomat, Georgia; and

9 WHEREAS, Dr. David C. Barrow provided Reverend Johnson with an acre of land on the
10 Barrow plantation and the pine trees needed to build a log church house to provide a
11 gathering place for fellowship and worship; and

12 WHEREAS, the first pastor of the rustic log Baptist church was Reverend D.P. Murden who
13 faithfully served the congregation of Springhill Baptist Church for 25 years and baptized
14 numerous new members during his decades leading the church; and

15 WHEREAS, Reverend Murden ordained many remarkable pastors to serve the Springhill
16 congregation, including Frank Maxey, Tony Wright, Lit Dalton, Tony Parker, Mack Delphia,
17 Lim Bryant, Daniel Gresham, and B.J. Johnson; and

18 WHEREAS, for the past 140 years, Springhill Baptist Church has been led under the guiding
19 spiritual hands of many pastors who have each seen the congregation grow in size, allowing
20 the Word of God to spread throughout the community, including Reverend R.F. Griffin,
21 Reverend Barnet, and current pastor Reverend Dr. Luther M. Durham, Jr.; and

22 WHEREAS, the congregation of Springhill Baptist Church has compiled an unparalleled
23 record of constructive, compassionate, and humanitarian service which it demonstrates daily
24 through open minds, open hearts, and open doors; and

25 WHEREAS, the unmatched spiritual assistance offered by this church as it continues to grow
26 and lead people throughout the community serves as a source of strength, inspiration, and
27 direction for all persons of all walks of life and from all economic strata; and

28 WHEREAS, members of Springhill Baptist Church have a sincere desire to serve the Lord
29 and are wholeheartedly committed to spreading the gospel of Jesus Christ; and

30 WHEREAS, it is abundantly fitting and proper that this enduring example of God's message
31 of peace and love be recognized and congratulated for its innumerable good works rendered
32 on behalf of persons in need.

33 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
34 recognize the rich history of Springhill Baptist Church, congratulate it on the occasion of its
35 140th anniversary, and extend their warmest best wishes for its continued growth and
36 success.

37 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
38 to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to Springhill Baptist Church.